A DECLARATION Of all the WATERMEN In and about the City of LONDON, between GRAVESEND and STANES.

OR,

A Hue and Cry after Col. *WHITTON* and his Decoys.

[1659?]
Sept 21/280

WHereas it hath been *seemingly* by the insinuationsof some *few* of us, cast on our *whole* Company, that we would lay our shoulders, and stretch out our helping hands, for the upholding of something, which to our selves is both unknown and uncertain; and may likewise in probability, be a cause of disturbance, if not breaking the peace of the Nation: *we*, to manifest *Our* innocency, in the one particular, and vindicate our selves from the *scandal* thereof, as also to shew our real and hearty concordance, with all other, *Noble men, Gentlemen, Citizens and others*, of the several Counties of *England*, whose Declarations are exposed to the publike view, doe *cordially, unanimously, and freely* declare.

That the *List* annexed of our names to a Petition *pretended* by our consent to be presented to the *Members sitting at Westminster*, is not at all by us owned, neither do we know any other Authors or Abettors thereof, then some *few here under-mentioned*, our names in truth being gained by Collonel *whitton*, under the pretence to put down *Hackny Coachmen*; but by him converted to another use, and that so contrary to our thoughts and intentions, that we would sooner have quitted our neerest relations, than have consented to such *ebulliences*. For the undeceiving therefore of the *Gentry* of this Nation, to whom many, yea, most of us are obliged, and consequently not unknown; for the rectifying the judgements of such as know us not, and for the satisfaction of the whole *free-born* Subjects of *England* who with us claim a birthright in *Magna Charta, and the Petition of right*, we doe further, with *one consent*, declare.

That we conceive it fitting, for the *redressing* the grievous wants and pressures, that lie upon all the good people of this Nation, that according to *Fundamentall Right*, the People in *Parliament* may have their *representatives*, who may receive their grievances, and present them in their behalf, whereby to obtain a remedy.

And because *Faction and Schism*, hath already too great a root, that *honest and prudential men* may be elected, whose *Estates* (as to temporalls) and *Religion* (as to spirituals) may obliege them sincerely, to endeavour a settlement both in *Church* and *State*.

The onely meanes for attaining of which ends, we conceive by the blessing of God, to be a *full and free Parliament*, which as we know the Nation groanes for; so we cordially desire, and we shall not acquiesce, till we have regained that our *undoubted right*, hitherto *unquestioned Priviledge*, and never to be denied *Lawful Demand*. In the defence whereof, we shall account nothing too dear to lose, being ready to quit not onely our *employments*, but to lay aside our *relations*, and lay our lives at stake.

This Representation is owned by Ten Thousand of us, (*which if desired*) *shall be acknowledged both with our hands and hearts, against all the malicious underminings of Col.* Whitton *the Painter and his Decoys: who upon the tendring that forged Petition to the watermens Hall, being conscious, that the rancknes of the Trepan would be presently sented, addrest themselves to Mr.* Pryn, *to pen their Protest against it, their names are hereunto annexed.*

Viz.

Wil. Lemond.	*Thomas Slator.*	*Robert Crop.*	*Wil. Sound.*	*Roger Phillips.*
Iosias Smith.	*Tho. Wasborn.*	*Tho. Vincent.*	*Iacob Meade.*	*Fran. Borrick.*
Wil. Crop.	*John Howard.*	*John Foster.*	*Wil. Clerk.*	*Richard Thusee.*
Wil. Goodale.	*Wil. Bugby.*	*John Lee.*	*Martin Craul.*	*Wil. Butler.*